Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/08/06 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000302750035-8

STAT

23 MARCH 1981

R I

DISTRIBUTION II

PM-SPY SKED 3-23

FORMER BRITISH SECRET SERVICE CHIEF MAY HAVE BEEN A SOVIET SPY

LONDON (UPI) -- THE FORMER HEAD OF BRITAIN'S SECRET SERVICE WHO WAS KNIGHTED MAY HAVE BEEN A SOVIET SPY -- POSSIBLY THE "MOST DAMAGING" DOUBLE AGENT IN HISTORY, SURPASSING EVEN TURNCOAT DEFECTOR KIM PHILBY, THE DAILY MAIL NEWSPAPER SAID TODAY.

THE DAILY MAIL IN A COPYRIGHT STORY BY ITS DEFENSE CORRESPONDENT CHAPAMAN PINCHER SAID SIR ROGER HOLLIS, THE LATE HEAD OF MI-5 FROM 1956 TO 1965 "IS FEARED TO HAVE BEEN A KGB AGENT' AND WAS INVESTIGATED FOR POSSIBLE LINKS TO THE SOVIET SPY AGENCY.

A SPOKESMAN AT PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER'S OFFICE AT NO. 10 DOWNING STREET SAID HE HAD "NO COMMENT" ON THE STORY.

HOLLIS, WHO DIED IN 1973, WAS KNIGHTED IN 1960 WHILE HE WAS HEAD OF THE SECURITY SERVICES. IT WAS NOT UNTIL AFTER HIS RETIREMENT THAT HE WAS THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED AS A DOUBLE-AGENT, THE PAPER SAID.

SENIOR CIA OFFICIALS WERE TOLD OF THE CASE AND SOME WERE SATISFIED THAT HOLLIS WAS WORKING FOR THE KGB "IN WHICH CASE HE MAY HAVE BEEN THE MOST DAMAGING SPY IN HISTORY," THE DAILY MAIL SAID.

THE DAILY MAIL STORY MADE NO SPECIFIC LINKAGE OF HOLLIS TO BRITAIN'S MOST INFAMOUS TURNCOAT -- KIM PHILBY, AN MI-5 AGENT, WHO FLED THE WEST IN 1963 AND DEFECTED TO MOSCOW WHEN HE WAS ON THE VERGE OF BEING UNCOVERED.

PHILBY WAS KNOWN AS THE "THIRD MAN" IN A SPY SCANDAL FOR HAVING EARLIER ALERTED DONALD MACLEAN AND GUY BURGESS, FELLOW KGB AGENTS IN MI-5, THAT THEY WERE ABOUT TO BE DISCOVERED. THEY HAD FLED TO MOSCOW AHEAD OF PHILBY. BURGESS DIED THERE.

LAST YEAR, SIR ANTHONY BLUNT, AN ART HISTORIAN, WAS NAMED AS ANOTHER FORMER SPY, THE "SO-CALLED" FOURTH MAN WHO RECRUITED PHILBY.

HOLLIS, THE OXFORD-EDUCATED SON OF AN ANGLICAN BISHOP JOINED THE BRITISH INTELLIGENCE ESTALISHMENT IN 1939 A YEAR BEFORE PHILBY. BUT THE NEWSPAPER MADE NO MENTION OF HIM AS THE "FIFTH MAN" IN THE CASE.

AFTER JOINING MI-5, HOLLIS BECAME HEAD OF SECTION F, OVERSEEING COMMUNIST OPERATIONS IN BRITAIN AND THE COMMONWEALTH. HE SERVED FOR SEVERAL YEARS AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MI-5 BEFORE BECOMING DIRECTOR GENERAL IN 1956.

Cont'd Over.....

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/08/06 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000302750035-8

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/08/06 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000302750035-8

BRITISH SPY

THE MAIL STORY SAID AFTER HE RETIRED, HOLLIS WAS INTERROGATED FOR TWO DAYS BY MI-5 OFFICIALS TRYING TO ESTABLISH THAT HE WAS A SOVIET SPY. HOLLIS "NEVER CRACKED THOUGH HIS ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WERE REGARDED AS UNSATISFACTORY," PINCHER SAID.

IN 1974, A RETIRED SENIOR CABINET OFFICIAL, LORD TREND, REVIEWED THE CASE. THERE WAS STRONG EVIDENCE MI-5 HAD BEEN INFILTRATED AND HE NAMED HOLLIS AS A LIKELY SUSPECT, WITH "THE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM BEING SO WEIGHTY AS TO DEMAND EXPLANATION," THE PAPER SAID.

AT THE TIME TREND RECOMMENDED THE CASE BE LEFT OPEN PENDING FURTHER EVIDENCE, THE PAPER SAID.

UPI 03-23-81 05:54 AES

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/08/06 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000302750035-8